

WBR 1452.211-80 Notice of Intent to Acquire Metric Products and Services.

As prescribed in WBR 1411.8003, insert the following provision.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ACQUIRE METRIC
PRODUCTS AND SERVICES - BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION (MAR 1993)**

(a) *Metric Transition Plan.* The Department of the Interior on December 6, 1991, issued a Metric Transition Program (Part 758 Department Manual Chapter 1) to establish and describe the program's policies and responsibilities. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has developed a Metric Transition Plan to implement metrication in Reclamation. This plan describes Reclamation's overall strategy for using the metric system, defines general requirements and procedures for carrying out the transition, and details the tasks with milestones for Reclamation offices to complete.

(b) *The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Trade Act).*

(1) Section 5164 of Public Law 100-418, the Trade Act, amended the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 and designated the metric system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce.

(2) The Trade Act establishes September 30, 1992 as the implementation date (to the extent economically feasible) for Federal agencies to use the metric system of measurement in its procurements, grants, and other business-related activities.

(3) The Trade Act permits exceptions to the use of the metric system to the extent that such use is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to United States firms, such as when foreign competitors are producing competing products in non-metric units.

(4) As a result of the Trade Act, the President issued Executive Order 12770 dated July 25, 1991, to implement the congressional designation of the metric system as the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce.

(c) *Bureau of Reclamation Implementation.* As a result of the Trade Act, Reclamation will, to the maximum extent practicable, use hard conversion and soft conversion metric systems in designing its construction projects, eventually phasing out use of the soft conversion metric system. Exceptions to this policy will only be made when such use is impractical, produces inefficiencies or market losses, or is not economically feasible.

(d) *Expected Results.* Reclamation expects its support of the metric system to result in increased use of the metric system by U.S. contractors, thereby increasing their ability to compete in the international marketplace. Increasing use of the metric system by U.S. contractors will eliminate possible restrictions on their bidding in the international marketplace and will eliminate any impact of economic blocks by metric countries restricting the acceptance of non-metric products.

(End of provision)